



Health MILESTONES

*Scott D. Williams, M.D., Executive Director
Dr. A. Richard Melton, Deputy Director
Allen Korhonen, Deputy Director*

2004

Utahns Log 3.8 Million Miles Walked

December 31, 2004 - During 2004, Utahns logged 3.7 million miles on the www.UtahWalks.org website. Nearly 3,600 people participated from 230 zip codes, which cover about two-thirds of the state. This brings the grand total of miles walked since the Utah Walks site was launched in September 2003 to 3.8 million miles.

UDOH Media Campaigns Grow to 15

December 31, 2004 – By the end of 2004, the total number of UDOH media campaigns reached 11 with an additional four in the agency selection process. UDOH runs more media campaigns than the rest of Utah state government combined. The campaigns include Baby Your Baby, Check Your Health, Children's Health Insurance/Primary Care Network (CHIP/PCN), Dental Health, Diabetes, Truth about Tobacco, Skin Cancer, Colon Cancer, Immunization, HIV/AIDS, Workability, Fight the Bite, Prostate Cancer, Breast and Cervical Cancer and Heart Disease and Stroke. In 2005, the UDOH contracted with eight different advertising and media agencies.

UDOH Child Care Licensing Implements New Inspection Process

December 20, 2004 – The UDOH Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL) implemented a new process for licensors to follow when inspecting childcare providers throughout Utah. The new process focuses on providing technical assistance to augment the inspections and enforcement process. The process has been streamlined to better help providers come into compliance with all health and safety regulations and to improve communication between the child care community and the UDOH.

Viral Hepatitis Comprehensive Plan Completed

December 15, 2004 - The Viral Hepatitis Comprehensive Plan was completed and presented to the community. This is the first plan addressing Viral Hepatitis in Utah. It is a three-year plan of activities that can be addressed by the community. The ultimate goal of the plan is to improve viral hepatitis services and address issues related to viral hepatitis in Utah.

Awards of Excellence to Utah PRAMS Program

December 12, 2004 - The Utah Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, an ongoing, population-based risk factor surveillance system designed to identify and monitor selected maternal experiences that occur before and during pregnancy and experience of the child's early infancy, was awarded two Awards of Excellence from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Reproductive Health in December. The awards were to commend the project's poster presentation entitled: "Data to Action: Utah's Prenatal Care Adequacy" developed by Laurie Baksh, Lois Bloebaum and Joanne Barley; and to recognize the project for Most Publications from a "new" PRAMS state (functioning since 1998).

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UDOH Initiates Process to Allow More Children with Serious Emotional Disease to be Eligible for Medicaid-Funded Mental Health Services

December 8, 2004 - In response to requests from parents and advocates for children with serious emotional disturbance, the UDOH, recently initiated the process to apply for a new Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver. At present, some families that do not qualify for Medicaid have insufficient health insurance and are unable to obtain mental health services for their children with serious emotional disturbance. The new waiver will target children who require the level of care supplied in the Utah State Hospital and allow them to receive care in their home and community. The Utah Department of Human Services is providing the required state funding for the waiver project.

HIV Surveillance Report and Community Epidemiological Profile Completed

December 7, 2004 - The HIV Surveillance Report and Community Epidemiological Profile was completed and presented to the Utah HIV Prevention Community Planning and the Utah HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care Planning Committees. The profile was developed as a result of collaboration between the Surveillance, HIV Prevention, HIV Treatment and Care and the Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Programs. This profile provides detailed information about the current HIV/AIDS epidemic in Utah, specifically the general population, HIV/AIDS infected persons and persons at risk for HIV in Utah.

Violence and Injury Prevention Program Gives Away Free Ski Helmets

December 4, 2004 – More than 300 skiers and snowboarders received free helmets as part of a first-of-its-kind injury prevention promotion at Brighton Ski Resort. Each year more than 1,800 Utahns suffer traumatic brain injuries in falls, car and motorcycle crashes, shootings and suicide attempts. Two percent of those injuries are the result of ski and snowboard crashes. By putting more helmets on skiers and boarders, the UDOH Violence and Injury Prevention Program's goal was to make them a more common part of all Utahns' winter sports equipment. The promotion was so successful, skiers began lining up two hours early, and UDOH volunteers gave all the helmets away in less than one hour.

Free Liver Biopsies

December 2004 - The Health Access Team along with the Communicable Disease Program's Hepatitis C Program has received commitments from several private medical providers to perform liver biopsies for some Hepatitis C patients at no cost.

HIV Prevention and HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care Needs Assessment Report Released

December 2004 - The Utah Prevention and HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care Needs Assessment Report was completed and presented to the Utah HIV Prevention Community Planning and the Utah HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care Planning Committees. The report is designed to help these committees make evidence-based decisions concerning the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS in Utah.

CHARM Data Integration Training Completed for the First Three Participating Programs

November 23, 2004 - The initial training for the 'core' CHARM users, participating program managers and participating program technical leads has been completed. This User Training focused on the first three programs to be integrated including USIIS, Newborn Hearing Screening and Vital Records. The goal of CHARM, the Child Health Advanced Records

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Management project, is to integrate health related programs and systems to create a virtual health profile for every child in the state. The CHARM system will provide immediate access to information stored in program-specific databases to track and monitor screening results, immunization status, referrals, follow-up, assessment, treatment and outcomes.

UDOH Receives Multiple Golden Spike Awards

November 10, 2004 - The Utah Department of Health was recognized in several categories at the 2004 Golden Spike Awards. Awards received include:

Silver Award, Special Events: Awarded to the Office of Public Information and Marketing for the Fight the Bite! Public Outreach and Media Campaign Kick-off Event.

Silver Award, Advertising/Marketing Direct Mail: Awarded to Cody Craynor, OPIM, for the Fight the Bite! Event invitation.

Bronze Award, News Release: Awarded to Jana Kettering, OPIM, and Andrea Hight, Health Care Financing, for the Second Trimester of Pregnancy Dental Cleaning News Release.

Bronze Award, Interactive Communications Category: Awarded to Catherine Chambless, Health Care Financing, for the Work Ability CD that helps link employers with those who are disabled.

Silver Award, Campaign Category: Awarded to the UDOH and its partners for the Cardiovascular Health Utah Walks campaign.

Bronze Award, Brochure Category: Awarded to the UDOH and its partners for the Cardiovascular Health Utah Walks brochure.

Governor Walker Announces Work Well Recommendations

November 23, 2004 – At a news conference, Gov. Olene Walker announced eight Work Well recommendations to help Utah state employees eat better and get more physical activity. The day before, the Governor's Office sent a letter to executive directors and human resources directors of state agencies encouraging them to implement the Work Well recommendations. State employees can log on to www.healthyutah.org/workwell to learn how to start a wellness council, download healthy message posters to hang in buildings, find healthy eating and physical activity tips and more.

UDOH First State to Lift all Flu Vaccine Restrictions

November 17, 2004 – Due to shipments of vaccine arriving throughout Utah, and an assessment of vaccine availability, the UDOH lifted all restrictions for receiving flu vaccine, meaning any member of the public could be vaccinated. Utah was the first state to take this action this season which has led to optimum utilization of vaccine. The UDOH continued to encourage individuals at high risk for flu complications to be vaccinated as soon as possible.

Alliance for Cardiovascular Health Receives National Trails Award

November 4, 2004 - Jane Lambert received the inaugural Trails for Health Award from the American Trails Board for her work as the chair of the Physical Activity Workgroup of the Alliance for Cardiovascular Health in Utah. Jane has served as a key player in creating policy changes and program for Active Community Environments throughout Utah, including trail and pedestrian safety improvements and the Utah Walks mile tracker website.

West Nile Virus Media Campaign Deemed a Success

October 22, 2004 – Early in 2004, UDOH Office of Public Information and Marketing and the Bureau of Epidemiology enlisted the help of the Utah Advertising Federation (UAF) to produce and air public awareness messages educating Utahns how to prevent West Nile virus infection.

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UAF created two radio and two television spots and worked with media outlets throughout Utah to air the spots as a public service. By October, the "Fight the Bite" spots ran a total of 8,597 times in for a value of over \$250,000 with a \$50,000 federal fund investment.

UDOH holds 2nd Annual Countering Bioterrorism Conference

October 19-22, 2004 - "Preparedness through Partnerships" was the theme for a conference held in Park City, Utah, that convened more than 350 public health, healthcare, and homeland security professionals, first responders, public officials and tribal leaders. Participants gathered to advance mutually understood roles and responsibilities in preparing for and responding to bioterrorism, disease outbreaks and other public health threats. Best practices and lessons learned were shared in the areas of joint emergency response, outbreak detection and control, laboratory preparedness, risk communication and hospital preparedness. Keynote speakers represented the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the Health Services and Resources Administration, and the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases.

Partnership Improves Screening in Pediatric Practices

October 15, 2004 - The UDOH, with additional funding from the Assuring Better Child Development II grant from the Commonwealth Fund, supported the third Utah Pediatric Partnership to Improve Healthcare Quality (UPIQ) Learning Collaborative. Over the next year, ten pediatric offices will improve screening processes to find babies who have social and emotional delays and refer them to local services. UPIQ is a collaborative project led by the Intermountain Pediatric Society and supported by the UDOH Divisions of Health Care Financing and Community and Family Health Services, the University of Utah Department of Pediatrics, the Intermountain Health Care Primary Care Clinical Program and HealthInsight.

HIV Prevention Manager Receives Latino Award

October 14, 2004 - Lynn Meinor, Manager for the HIV Prevention Program, received the Latino Award for her outstanding dedication and work with HIV/AIDS in the Latino Community in Utah.

UDOH Receives Two Awards at National Conference

October 6, 2004 – The UDOH was recognized at the annual National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC) conference. Awards received include:

Bronze Award for Excellence, Press Kit Category: Awarded for the Work Ability "Opening Doors to Work" Event Press Kit, awarded to Catherine Chambless and Anna West in Health Care Financing and Jana Kettering in the Office of Public Information and Marketing (OPIM).

Silver Award of Excellence, Features/In House Category: Awarded for the series of public health articles in the Utah Health Magazine. Awarded to Jana Kettering and Steve McDonald in OPIM.

CHIP, PCN and Covered at Work Join the Division of Health Care Financing

October 1, 2004 – Utah's Children's Health Insurance Program, the Primary Care Network and Covered at Work became a bureau of the Division of Health Care Financing (DHCF) at the UDOH. The new bureau within the DHCF is called the Bureau of Access.

RxConnect Utah Celebrates One Year of Operation

October 1, 2004 – RxConnect, which helps people find out how they can get free prescription medicine, has provided approximately 3,000 referrals since it began one year ago. RxConnect Utah gives information, referrals and resources to all Utahns who have no prescription drug

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coverage to make use of these programs. These patient assistance programs are available to people of all ages who qualify based on income and family size.

Utah Statewide Immunization Information System Wins National Award

October 2004 - The Utah Statewide Immunization Information System (USIIS) was honored with the Davies Award of Excellence in Public Health by the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), in mid October. The immunization registry was among three finalists vying for the competitive and prestigious award. USIIS is the first public health information system to be honored with the award, as the public health category was added for the first time this year.

October 2004 - A grant was awarded by US Dept. of Education for \$821,000 to Utah State University to work with the UDOH Baby Watch Early Intervention Program and the Special Education Program in the State Office of Education on developing and measuring early childhood outcomes in Utah.

Caseload for Utah WIC Program Continues to Grow

September 30, 2004 - The Utah WIC Program reached a record high number of participants certified for benefits. Overall, 73,141 women, infants and children in Utah were enrolled in the program during the month of September. This growth represents an increase of 3% compared to participant certification in September 2003 (Some agencies, however, have seen caseload increases in this same time period up to 7 %).

Five Year, \$5 Million AHRQ Contract Awarded to Utah for Electronic Health Highway

September 21, 2004 - Utah was one of four states awarded a five year \$5 million contract by the Federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to develop a way for patient information to be shared electronically among health care providers who have a legitimate need to see the information. Having access to complete, accurate and timely information about a patient's medical history has been demonstrated to improve quality and reduce costs. A consortium that was convened by Governors Leavitt and Walker and designated by the UDOH to pursue this specific improvement in healthcare in the state submitted the proposal.

Annual Tobacco Report Shows Less than 12 percent of Utahns smoke

September 13, 2004 - The UDOH's fourth Annual Report on Tobacco Prevention and Control showed continued and significant reductions in Utah's adult and youth smoking rates and exposure to secondhand smoke since 2000. The report highlighted the accomplishments of the UDOH's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program (TPCP) and its many partners to fight tobacco use and save lives. Activities are funded through the Tobacco Master Settlement (MSA) and Cigarette Tax Restricted Accounts.

Data Shows Improvement in Anemia of Utah WIC Clients

September 2004 - The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) 2003 data reported that children participating in the Utah WIC Program have experienced a decreased rate of low iron or anemia from a high of 11.7 percent in 2002 to 9.9 percent in 2003. This improvement in the CDC defined anemia indicator may be associated with the outstanding laboratory skills, techniques and maintenance procedures of the Utah local agency WIC staff in obtaining blood samples. In addition, it is anticipated that this percentage will be further decreased as a result of new monthly nutrition interventions designed to optimize dietary iron intake of young children in 2004.

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CHARM Selected to Contribute to Public Health Informatics Institute Program

August 12-13, 2004 – The UDOH Data Integration System, Child Health Advanced Records Management, (CHARM) was selected by the Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII), a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded program, to contribute to the development of a policy to further the implementation of integrated child health information systems. The NCHARM project was developed to be able to link three data sets using a shared identifier, the Birth Record Number (BRN). This collaboration provides an opportunity for the CHARM project to be highlighted nationally as well as the opportunity to learn from the experience and knowledge of the Institute. The workgroup will now evolve into a broader role of oversight for the CHARM Data Rules, Policies and Procedures thread.

UDOH Expands Long Term Care Options in Southern Utah

August 1, 2004 - The UDOH's Medicaid program implemented Molina Independence Care, bringing the Utah Department of Health's Long Term Care Managed Care Initiative Projects (LTC MC) to southern Utah. The LTC MC provides comprehensive care for people on Medicaid who need nursing home type care and currently live in a nursing care facility or acute care hospital. For those who are eligible, a case manager will coordinate all services you or your loved one need, such as, home health, primary care, and medical supplies. As an added benefit, you or your loved one may have the option to get needed care in a setting other than a nursing home. Those who qualify may move back home, to an assisted living facility, or to another setting that may work better. Molina Independence Care serves Washington, Iron, Beaver, Garfield and Kane counties. FlexCare serves Salt Lake, Davis and Tooele counties. Weber MACS serves Weber, Morgan and Davis counties.

Primary Care Network (PCN) presentation at National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Conference

July 21, 2004 - Representative Rebecca D. Lockhart, PCN Administrators, Chad Westover (former CHIP director) and Michael Hales (current CHIP director), and PCN Evaluation Researcher Wu Xu presented the PCN program development, legislative and oversight activities and its recent evaluation at the NCSL "health chairs" session. Legislators from other states were able to learn how the UDOH worked with legislators to expand health insurance coverage to low-income and uninsured adults, hear "lessons learned" by PCN policy-makers, and then ascertain how these lessons would benefit other states pursuing similar 1115 Medicaid waivers. Senator Gloria G. Lawlah from Maryland led a lively discussion on the roles that legislative leaders play in shaping and overseeing their state's Medicaid reform.

Guide to Pediatric Audiologists in Utah Released

July 7, 2004 – UDOH Hearing, Speech and Vision Services (HSVS), in collaboration with the Intermountain Pediatric Society (IPS) Chapter Champion for Newborn Hearing Screening and Dr. David Boettger, received a mini-grant from the American Academy of Pediatrics. The funding was used to survey Utah Audiologists and create a brochure, "A Guide to Pediatric Audiologists in Utah" to be used as a resource to Medical Home providers, families and newborn hearing screening programs to enhance referrals for diagnostic services.

Traditional Medicaid Dental Benefits for Adults Temporarily Restored

July 2, 2004 - The 2004 Legislature approved "one time money," expected to last through March 2005, that allows some dental services for adults on traditional Medicaid to be restored. Adults

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with traditional Medicaid will be able to get root canals, X-rays and fillings. Pregnant women and children on this program will continue to receive full Medicaid dental benefits.

Hearing Aid Recycling Program (HARP) Doubles the Amount of Hearing Aids Provided

July 1, 2004 – Hearing, Speech and Vision Services (HSVS), Hearing Aid Recycling Program (HARP) was able to fit 44 hearing aids on children with financial needs during fiscal year 2004. Donations of old hearing aids are solicited from the community and then recycled through a hearing aid company. The hearing aid manufacturer provides credit to the HSVS Program and this credit is used to purchase new hearing aids. These hearing aids may save families in need thousands of dollars per aid and provide the educational head start that these children must have.

Assuring Better Child Health and Development Program Underway

July 1, 2004 - Assuring Better Child Health and Development program (ABCD II) is underway in Utah. ABCD II completed a survey of health care providers to find out how the UDOH and their partners can help them screen babies for appropriate social and emotional development. As a result, ABCD II is now developing a menu of screening tools for pediatricians to use in assessing the healthy mental development of infants. In the coming years, the program will focus on toddlers and maternal depression.

UDOH Multicultural Center Created, Center Coordinator Hired

July 1, 2004 - The UDOH Center for Multicultural Health was created by the 2004 Utah State Legislature. Its purpose is to assist in the development of programs to address minority health issues, to coordinate health promotion activities of state, local, and tribal organizations, and to coordinate the production and use of ethnic health information by the relevant stakeholders. Owen Quinonez was hired in September 2004 as the Coordinator of the Center and will be working with UDOH staff, local health departments, and the ethnic communities to address ethnic health issues in Utah.

Legacy Gold Medal Mile Map Books Now on Sale

July 2004 – The Bureau of Health Promotion has printed 1,000 copies of the beautifully illustrated Legacy Gold Medal Mile Map Book, which are available for sale on www.utahwalks.org for \$10 each. In addition, the mayor of each Utah city and town with a Legacy Gold Medal Mile in the area received a complementary copy of the book.

UDOH Employee Named as 2004 State Employee of the Year

June 28, 2004 - Robert Lo was presented with the Governor's 2004 Outstanding State Employee Award on June 28, 2004 by Lt. Governor McKeachnie. Robert works for the Division of Epidemiology and Laboratory Services, Bureau of Microbiology, located at 46 North Medical Drive. He was nominated by his supervisor, Barbara Jepson. This award is presented annually to recognize dedicated and high performing state employees. Robert was selected as one of the six semi-finalists from 32 nominations.

The “Work Ability: Opening Doors to Work” Campaign Launches

June 25, 2004 - Work Ability, a new program and awareness campaign to promote employment for people with disabilities, was launched. The campaign tells employers about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities and reaches out to Utahns with disabilities to tell them how to work and still qualify for important benefits like Medicaid. Work Ability is distributing a free CD with information for employers and job seekers with disabilities. The campaign also includes

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a radio campaign, posters and postcards. Work Ability is a program of the UDOH, the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation and Department of Workforce Services.

“Check” Campaign for Check Your Health

June 18, 2004 - Check Your Health launched a new campaign focusing on the word “check.” The spot titled “Checks and Balances” encourages viewers to make healthy choices at the grocery store and at the dinner table. “Check Point” and “Check In” encourage viewers to get active through walking and other exercises. Viewers are directed to the CYH Web site and the hotline for more information.

Utah’s Overall Uninsured Rate Shows Little Change Despite Tough Economic Times

June 11, 2004 - Though Utah suffered from a poor economy, new data from the UDOH shows little change in the percentage of uninsured Utahns. In 2001, about 199,000 Utahns, or 8.7 percent of the population, were uninsured. In 2003, about 215,000 Utahns, or 9.1 percent of the population, were uninsured. While the overall number changed little, people said they were uninsured for different reasons. In 2003, Utahns were more likely to say they didn’t have health insurance due to factors related to the poor economy and unemployment. Visit www.ibis.health.utah.gov to view data and reports from the UDOH Health Status Survey.

New Violence and Injury Prevention Website Debuts

June 1, 2004 – The UDOH Violence and Injury Prevention Program launched a new website dedicated to helping Utahns stay safe. The site covers all aspects of injury and violence prevention, including issues like motor vehicle safety, drowning prevention and domestic violence issues. The goal of the site is to give Utahns prevention information that will help them avoid risks and take advantage of safety tools like seat belts, car seats and bicycle and motorcycle helmets.

Two New Rules Help Children Who Were Covered by Medicaid but No Longer Qualify

June 1, 2004 – Those who are having a new baby or adopting may be able to get CHIP, without waiting for open enrollment. Families who already have CHIP can now apply for CHIP for their new child between open enrollments. Some children who were on Medicaid but no longer qualify can now automatically enroll on CHIP, without waiting for open enrollment.

Institute for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention Draws National Speakers

June 2004 - The Annual Institute for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention was held at the Homestead Resort June 20th – 23rd, as part of ongoing efforts to enhance the capacity of the 12 local health districts (LHDs) that receive CDC Prevention Block Grant funding, and to enhance partnerships among the LHDs and the HDSPP. Key speakers included walking advocate Mark Fenton and John Librett from CDC, who discussed the latest in physical activity infrastructure and creating Active Community Environments.

Bureau of Epidemiology Prepares for Potential West Nile Virus Epidemic

Summer, 2004 - The UDOH Bureau of Epidemiology, Coordinated a statewide effort to prepare for a possible WNV epidemic, including a media and marketing campaign, education of clinicians, development of a statewide plan with involvement by more than 20 state and local agencies, and emergency implementation of a web-based surveillance computer system to allow tracking of the epidemic.

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World No Tobacco Day

May 27, 2004 - The Tobacco Prevention and Control Program held an event in Salt Lake City to commemorate World No Tobacco Day. This year's theme was "Up in Smoke; Tobacco's Cost to the Family." On the same day, U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Richard H. Carmona, released a report nationwide called "The Health Consequences of Smoking." The report revealed that the economic and health effects of smoking are more widespread than previously thought.

UDOH Begins Prescription Program to Improve Mental Health Care

May 25, 2004 - Doctors who prescribe medications for Medicaid patients may be hearing from the UDOH. The UDOH is monitoring prescribing patterns to make sure drugs used for mental health are used correctly. For the next two years, the Utah Behavioral Pharmacy Management Program will review Medicaid pharmacy claims data looking for doses that are too high or too low, similar drugs being prescribed by more than one doctor, and forgotten refills for more than 130 different drugs used to improve mental health. When claims like these are found, information about mental health drugs is mailed to the prescribing physician. This program will benefit patients by making sure they get the right drug in the right dose. It helps doctors know if a patient is taking similar medications prescribed by someone else. By looking for prescriptions people don't need, the program reduces costs.

The TRUTH From Youth Advertising Contest Awards Ceremony

May 21, 2004 - Forty-nine Utah youth received recognition at an awards ceremony and lunch at The Gateway Union Pacific Depot in Salt Lake City. The students were awarded for their winning entries in the seventh annual Truth from Youth Anti-tobacco Advertising Contest, presented by the Utah Department of Health (UDOH). Nearly 8,000 Utah students entered this year's contest, and more than 43,700 students have participated in the contest since 1998.

Baby Your Baby Visits the Institute of Bad Luck

May 17, 2004 - Baby Your Baby continued the Lucky 13 campaign by launching a new spot. "The Institute of Bad Luck" features a mad scientist who happens across the formula for a healthy baby: See your doctor before the 13th week; make 13 visits during your pregnancy. The spot directs viewers to seek more information via the Baby Your Baby Hotline and the Web site at www.babyyourbaby.org.

EMS Week Celebrated

May 16-22, 2004 - The National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week 2004 was held on May 16-22, 2004. The UDOH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services recognized the outstanding service and contributions of Utah EMS responders, and sponsored the annual EMS Awards Ceremony on May 17, 2004. UDOH Director Dr. Scott D. Williams attended the ceremony as we celebrated and honored our state's finest EMS professionals and showed our appreciation. A committee of EMS peers within urban and rural Utah nominated the award recipients.

Utah Department of Health Participates in 2nd Annual Cover the Uninsured Week

May 10-16, 2004 - Salt Lake City was one of several cities across the country to host Cover the Uninsured Week. This weeklong event, held May 10-16, 2004, was the second time Salt Lake City joined other cities across the country to raise awareness about the importance of health insurance. The UDOH was a partner in the week's events, and held open enrollment for CHIP and the Primary Care Network. As of April 2004, the UDOH was providing health coverage to

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more than 210,000 Utahns who may otherwise go uninsured via Medicaid, CHIP (Utah's Children's Health Insurance Program), and the Primary Care Network.

Pregnancy RiskLine Celebrates 20 Years of Service to Utah

May 7, 2004 - The Pregnancy RiskLine is twenty years old this month. The RiskLine is a free telephone resource answering questions about the effects of maternal use of drugs, chemicals, etc., on the developing fetus and breastfed infant. The RiskLine, jointly operated by the Department of Health and the University of Utah, began operations on Mother's Day, 1984, and has continued providing accurate and timely information to families and their health care providers for twenty years. The service is one of the oldest and largest of its kind in the world. In its 20 years of existence, more than 200,000 Utahns have received education and nearly 20 research projects into the causes of birth defects have been accomplished.

Asthma Medication Law Goes Into Effect

May 3, 2004 - This law allows children to carry and self-administer their inhaled asthma medications at school provided they have written authorization from both health care provider and a parent/guardian. It is anticipated that this will release the burden of asthma episodes in schools.

Primary Care Network Holds Its First Open Enrollment

May 3, 2004 - The Utah Department of Health invited parents to apply for the Primary Care Network (PCN) during open enrollment, May 3-12, 2004. This is the first time enrollment has been opened since the program reached capacity in November of 2003. Utah's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) also opened enrollment May 3-12, 2004. Families who applied for CHIP did not need to submit an additional application for PCN, streamlining the process. The federal government requires PCN to enroll more parents than people without children. Because of this, PCN may schedule separate enrollment times for parents and those without children.

Record Number of Hotline Calls Answered at UDOH

May 2004 - The Baby Your Baby hotline staff experienced the highest call volume ever, answering over 9,000 calls in the month of May. The increase in calls is attributed to CHIP and PCN open enrollment as well as adding Cancer Control, West Nile Virus and Asthma to the list of programs that utilize the hotline staff. In total, the hotline team answers five hotlines (Baby Your Baby, Immunizations, Cancer Control, WeeCare and Health Resource Line) with eleven different programs using the Health Resource Line.

Gold Medal School Initiative Wraps Up Third Successful Year

May 2004 - The Gold Medal School Initiative held a year-end luncheon to congratulate mentors and local health districts on a successful year. During the 2003-04 school year, 65,669 students and 3,039 teachers from 138 elementary schools statewide participated in the GMSI, and have walked 2,692,429 Gold Medal Miles since Fall 2001.

Recommendations Made for Future Family History Interventions

April 27, 2004 - An assessment of the Family High Risk Program, a family history intervention run by the UDOH from 1983-1999, was conducted from November 2003 through April 2004. A report was then drafted and distributed to key players from the Utah Department of Health Bureau of Health Promotion, Cardiovascular Genetic Research Clinic, University of Utah College of Nursing and the Centers for Disease Control Office of Genomics and Disease

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Prevention. Key players were brought together on April 27, 2004 to draft a set of recommendations for future family history interventions which were then made available to state health departments, universities, policymakers, healthcare settings and other interested parties. The recommendations have far-reaching effects on future public health initiatives regarding the use of family history as a tool for health promotion and disease prevention.

UDOH Consultation with Beijing Ministry of Health Regarding Olympics

April 16-25, 2004 - Dr. Scott D. Williams, Executive Director of the UDOH led a UDOH delegation and provided consultation to Beijing Ministry of Health on public health planning and operations for the 2002 Salt Lake Winter Olympic Games. Public health professionals in China found Utah's success stories in the Olympics were valuable for their preparation for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. They especially appreciated the U.S. consultants' expertise in emergency medical services, disaster responses, real-time disease outbreak surveillance and laboratory technology. Also, Dr. Rolfs of the UDOH Office of Epidemiology consulted with the Hellenic Center for Infectious Disease Control (KEEL) regarding public health preparations for the Olympic Games in Athens in June 2004.

SMOKE-FREE SLC: Public Shows Support for Smoke-Free Work Sites

April 8, 2004 - The inaugural Smoke-Free SLC was held and was a rousing success. Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson proclaimed April 8th as Smoke-Free SLC Day. In support of the event, many of Salt Lake City's top private clubs, bars and several work sites voluntarily went smoke-free for the day.

Height and Weight Abstract Featured in CDC Journal

April 2004 - The Utah K-8th Grade Height and Weight Measurement Project abstract, presented at this year's Chronic Disease Conference, was chosen as one of 21 abstracts to be featured in the April 2004 issue of Preventing Chronic Disease, CDC's electronic journal.

Hearing Head Start Project Completed

April 2004 - The goal of this HRSA funded project was to demonstrate and update strategies to conduct otoacoustic emissions (OAE) hearing screening on children birth to three years in selected Migrant, American Indian and Early Head Start programs throughout the state. The UDOH and the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) were part of a two-year feasibility study in more than 70 program sites in Oregon, Washington and Utah. Training early Head Start programs to screen for hearing loss will help to identify children with hearing loss that may have been previously "lost to follow-up" in the Newborn Hearing Screening Program. Collaboration between public and private agencies will continue this training effort with early Head Start Programs in the future.

Electronic Submission of Newborn Hearing Screening Data from Birthing Facilities

April 2004 - Mandated newborn hearing screening data is now submitted to the UDOH's Hearing Screening and Vision Program (HSVP) in electronic format by all screening programs. The HSVP's staff's efforts to provide computers and software to the six rural sites and submit data in hard copy, completes a statewide system of data management and tracking for newborn hearing screening. This milestone will enhance follow-up efforts for those infants needing hearing screening follow-up, and will further collaborative efforts to provide integrated data among public health programs.

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Ten-Year Study Finds Utah Bicycle Helmet Use Among Worst in Nation

March 29, 2004 – By watching children going to and from school, the Utah Department of Health has found only 20% of elementary school students and 5% of secondary students wear bicycle helmets. The state also has the 10th highest bicycle fatality rate in the U.S. The UDOH Violence and Injury Prevention team called for all Utahns to start wearing helmets, as they reduce the risk of head injury and death in a crash by 85%.

Asthma School Resource Manual Complete

March 2004 - The Utah Asthma Task Force Education subcommittee has completed a school resource manual for asthma. This manual has been pilot-tested and is currently being implemented in schools statewide. School faculty and staff receive training about asthma in general and how the resource manual can help them. The staff also receives general emergency protocol guidelines so that they are better equipped to help in case of an emergency.

Asthma in Utah Data Report Released

March 2004 – The Utah Asthma Program released its Asthma in Utah Data Report, which assesses the current picture of the burden of asthma in Utah. The report also highlights the current asthma surveillance system. In a continued effort to enhance its asthma surveillance system, the Utah Asthma Program will be adding additional data sources, including Medicaid, private insurance, pharmacy, occupational, and school surveys. These efforts to incorporate new data sources and improve existing asthma surveillance activities underscore the commitment of the Utah Asthma Program.

Legacy Gold Medal Mile Maps Now Available Online

March 2004 - As part of the celebration of National Trails Day (June 5th), maps and descriptions of all 49 of the Legacy Gold Medal Miles can now be viewed and downloaded from www.utahwalks.org. A total of 1,295 people signed up for Utah Walks in the month of March, bringing the total to 2,534. Participants of Utah Walks walked an average of 3,800 miles a day in March. This brings the total miles walked to 336,000 miles since September.

Genetics Advisory Committee Convenes to Update State Genetics Plan

February 5, 2004 - The Chronic Disease Standing Committee, expert panel of the Genetics Advisory Committee, held its first meeting on February 5, 2004 to begin discussions for updating the Utah State Genetics Plan. The committee is convened of experts in chronic disease and genetics from multiple organizations throughout the community. The committee has been charged with the task of updating the portion of the State Genetics Plan that deals specifically with chronic disease application. The committee has developed a work plan for accomplishing the above task and is currently constructing a timeline for accomplishing the work plan objectives.

Utah Tobacco Quit Line Fax Referral System Implemented

February 2004 - Fax Referral connects clients to the Quit Line with the help of their healthcare providers. Clinicians can fax referral forms to the Utah Tobacco Quit Line. When the Quit Line receives fax forms, it calls the patients to help them quit using tobacco. Fax referral does away with problems that might otherwise prevent clients from contacting the Quit Line, such as losing the phone number, nervousness about initiating calls or just forgetting to call.

Utah Department of Health – 2004 Milestones

40th Anniversary of U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Tobacco

January 9, 2004 - On January 11, 1964, Luther L. Terry, M.D. released the first report of the Surgeon General's Advisory Committee on Smoking and Health. This landmark document was America's first widely publicized official recognition that cigarette smoking causes cancer and other serious diseases. Representatives from public health, non-profit, anti-tobacco advocacy and medical organizations met on January 9, 2004 at the Utah State Historical Society to review the 40-year fight.

Gold Medal School Initiative Walks and Talks with Legislators

January 2004 - The Gold Medal School Initiative participated in the “Walk and Talk with Your Legislator” Gold Medal Mile at the State Capitol as part of Public Health Day on January 30. More than 100 exemplary Gold Medal School students, their parents, principals, and school coordinators walked with their state lawmakers to educate them about the importance of a healthy school environment.

Newborn Child Health Advanced Records Management (N-CHARM) Project Completed

January 2004 - The statewide implementation of the Newborn Child Health Advanced Record Management (NCHARM) Project was developed to be able to link three data sets using a shared identifier, the Birth Record Number (BRN). The project was launched to find out whether a shared identifier could improve the accuracy, completeness, timeliness and reliability of the data collected. The project demonstrated that data could be collected and shared with 93% accuracy across independent databases using a shared identifier. Information from this project will be valuable in the continued development of the CHARM data integration Project.

Utah Department of Health, Office of Public Information and Marketing, 2004.